

RESOLUTION NO. 216-21

BY: **MARK CASSELBERRY**

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JEREMY JUSEK AS
POET LAUREATE FOR THE CITY OF PARMA, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, poetry provides an expansive understanding of the world we live in. Through poetry, we can more clearly see where we stand, and vividly imagine how we want to shape our society. Art expands our possibilities, and the incorporation of poetry in public life allows for more creative and visionary collective governance; and

WHEREAS, a City Poet Laureate is a poet officially appointed by City leadership to compose poems for special events and occasions. The Poet Laureate also implements poetry events and hosts poetry competitions for children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Parma Poet Laureate will serve to build awareness and appreciation of poetry - including the City's legacy of poetry - through public readings, workshops, lectures, and presentations in communities, schools, universities, and other public settings. The Poet Laureate is a volunteer position that will represent the City at functions through positive selections written to celebrate the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Jeremy Jusek is a poet and playwright living in Parma, Ohio. He earned his MFA in poetry from Arcadia University and published his first full length poetry collection in 2019. Jeremy is the founder of the *West Side Poetry Workshop* and the podcast *Poetry Spotlight*. Jeremy has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Willard Award for Best New Play Script in 2020 and the Emerson Award for Best Poetry in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Jeremy has a passion to use poetry to build a more creative and interactive community. Jeremy hopes to use his time as Poet Laureate to connect Parma citizens with one another through young poet programs, involving Parma's middle and high school students, as well as establishing workshops in Parma's senior center. All of Jeremy's initiatives focus on celebrating Parma's talent while building long-term infrastructure for the city's creative community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF PARMA, OHIO:

Section 1. That the City of Parma Council hereby appoints Jeremy Jusek as Poet Laureate for the City of Parma.

Section 2. That said appointment shall be in effect until further action by the Council.

Section 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its communities that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare of the City of Parma, and for further reason that this measure is necessary in order to appoint Jeremy Jusek as Poet Laureate for the City of Parma, and this Resolution shall become immediately effective upon receiving the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council and approval of the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH
THE MAYOR: _____
MAYOR, CITY OF PARMA, OHIO